

REMARKS

This application pertains to a novel method of cleaning valves or lines of hydrolyzable polymers.

Claims 5-10 are pending.

The office action of February 10, 2004 is a "normal" office action, and, apparently through error, imposed a shortened statutory period for reply of only one month. Applicants believe that this was through error, and that the Examiner actually intended a three-month shortened statutory period for reply, and Applicants have previously submitted a Request for Restart of Period for Reply.

It is therefore believed that this response is timely, and that no extension of time is required. If, however, the Commissioner should determine that an extension of time is, in fact, needed, please consider this to be a petition for such extension of time as is necessary to make this response timely, pursuant to the authorization found at the end of these remarks.

The Office Action Summary indicates that the PTO has not received Applicants' priority document (box 12/1 is checked). Applicants respectfully draw the Examiner's attention to the Notification of Missing Requirements, dated 04/08/02, which acknowledges receipt of Applicants' priority document. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that same be acknowledged in the next office action summary, by checking box 12/3.

The Examiner's attention is also respectfully drawn to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 17, 2001, and an initialed copy of the 1449 form attached to that IDS is respectfully requested.

Turning now to the substance of the Office Action, claims 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for various reasons related to claim 5, more specifically indicated in the Office Action. Applicants have carefully considered the issues raised by this rejection, and have made appropriate claim amendments to address them.

The Examiner questions how the 10 degrees is maintained, how the housing is heated and what relationship it has with the ten degrees centigrade? In response, it is respectfully submitted that there are a variety of ways in which industrial valves and lines are heated, including but not limited to the use of jackets through which heat-transfer fluids are made to flow (page 2, lines 16-18), and all of such ways are well-known to those having ordinary skill in the art to which this invention pertains. The relationship of such heating with the recited ± 10 degrees centigrade is, of course, that the ± 10 degrees centigrade can be maintained through the use of such heating means, again as will be well-understood by those skilled in the art.

It is therefore submitted that the amendments made herein, together with the foregoing comments, overcome the rejection, and that the rejection of claims 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph should now be withdrawn.

In view of the present amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 5 -

10 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of said claims by the Examiner is respectfully requested, and the allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

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CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME


OFFICIAL

If any extension of time for this response is required, Appellants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Additional Fee

Please charge any insufficiency of fee or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.


Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile no. 703-872-9308 addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450 on April 15, 2004


Julie Harting
Date April 15, 2004